

## Assessment Philosophy

**As educational leaders** with an uncompromising commitment and passion for excellence, we believe our assessment program must reflect these values. Our assessment program must be aligned to standards, use multiple data sources with multiple forms, be embedded in instruction, and deliberately involve students in relevant and authentic experiences. We believe that assessment is a system constructed with the learning destination in mind, designed to encourage, motivate, and challenge students. This system plans for the collection and analysis of data as evidence of progress towards learning, providing feedback and reflection for all stakeholders.

### Key Attributes:

#### Aligned Assessment

- Is tied to significant and deliberate instructional outcomes, essential standards, state regulations, and district curriculum
- Provides a clear, data-driven destination for student success
- Provides consistent practices of assessing, scoring, and grading across classrooms, disciplines, and grade levels through a collaborative process

#### Balanced Assessment

- Measures progress toward content standards, enduring understandings, and instructional outcomes
- Maintains a balance among diagnostic, formative, and summative assessment
- Includes assessment methods that appeal to different learning styles and strengths

#### Varied Assessment

- Incorporates higher order thinking skills through the use of rigorous learning experiences and assessments
- Utilizes diverse methods of assessment that promote creativity, innovation, critical thinking, problem solving and information fluency
- Integrates methods of assessment that are matched to the standards being assessed
- Reflects universal design principles by providing for multiple means of demonstration of understanding

#### Quality Assessment

- Is frequent, on-going, valid, and reliable
- Uses data to assist teachers and students, inform instruction, and promote learning
- Produces feedback that is specific and descriptive as well as evaluative
- Provides explicit evidence that results in nimble and responsive instruction

#### Student Engagement

- Promotes self-assessment, goal setting, and reflection
- Supports independent application of Next Generation Skills
- Encourages perseverance when faced with complex and challenging tasks

**We believe** that an exemplary assessment system positively impacts student motivation; creates an environment that nurtures intellectual risk-taking; cultivates a feeling of being valued; promotes confidence, hope, and a healthy attitude toward learning; and informs the student of progress toward specific learning goals.